COMIC SHOP NEWS™

1162

"Unmissable, especially for lovers of fairytale revampings and extrapolations."
—*Booklist*

"Dark, fast-paced, moving and entertaining, with a few surprises along the way."
—*Publishers Weekly*

"I'd recommend this... to anyone who enjoys contemporary urban fantasy."
—Robin Hobb
author of *The Soldier Son* trilogy and *The Farseer* trilogy

"Witty and fun from start to finish."
—George R.R. Martin
New York Times best-selling author of *A Song of Ice and Fire*

PETER & MAX

a FABLES™ novel

Written by *New York Times* best-selling author BILL WILLINGHAM
with illustrations by STEVE LEIALOHA

OCTOBER 2009

Comics and Books for Mature Readers
VERTIGO
vertigocomics.com

Visit comicshoplocator.com or call 1-888 COMIC BOOK

DM's Guide to Green Lantern Artistry

When ***Green Lantern*** artist *Ivan Reis* joined writer *Geoff Johns* on ***Blackest Night***, DC needed an ace artist to take over Hal Jordan's flagship title. And it couldn't be just *any* artist: a best-selling book demands a special caliber of artist—one capable of illustrating emotion and action, character and cosmic drama.

Which is why DC tapped *Doug Mahnke*, who launched his ***Green Lantern*** run with one of the most pivotal ***Blackest Night*** complementary tales—the back story of Black Hand, revealing how he graduated from minor villain to one of the most deadly figures in the DC Universe. Since then, he's been up to his neck in ***Blackest Night*** action, illustrating tales that are secondary only to the core series in importance.

Mahnke loves what he's doing, but he's the first to admit that "the schedule is grueling, so that's not exactly pleasant. It would be nice to have it let up soon, but it's going to be a little while until we get done with ***Blackest Night***. I think the storyline runs something like eight issues. And with Issue #43 kicking things off, it's going to be about nine issues total before I get any relief. But I just try to forget about that part.

"Other than that, it's a really fun comic to work on," Mahnke said. "It's something new every issue, and it challenges me as an artist. I've gotten to work on such a variety. I had that issue of #43 where Black Hand was the subject, and then from #44 to #45, it's just drastically different. Maybe that's going to happen every issue; I don't know... As diverse as each issue's been so far, I have no idea what's coming down. It keeps it interesting for me."

Part of the pleasure of illustrating ***Green Lantern*** comes from the opportunity to work with *Geoff Johns*, who is often praised for his close communication with the artists with whom he works. "Before we started, Geoff said he really likes to work closely with the artist. And we had really good communication up front about all the characters and his thoughts behind them. Lately, though, his schedule's been so tight, and so has mine. I know he's just hammering out a tremendous amount of work every month, and with my deadlines, he kind of has to leave me alone as much as possible just to get the job done."

Mahnke was tapped for ***Green Lantern*** for two reasons: he's very good, and he's very reliable. On a series this pivotal to the DCU, having an artist who won't fall months behind deadline was crucial—and Mahnke has proven over the years that he can deliver in spite of a heavy workload. Even so, Mahnke admits that "I've never been this tight on any book. Literally, Issue #47, I'm just getting started on that while I help finish up the inks on #46. With all the issues up until now, it's been easy for me to leaf through the issues of ***Green Lantern*** and ***Corps*** and find the character references I need. But with Issue #47, there's a lot of new stuff that I've never seen before. So it's going to be a real challenge."

Will Mahnke have a chance to design anything himself, rather than working from others' prior design work? "Yeah. Possibly... It's always fun to design something, but with these deadlines, it's a lot easier *not* to have to design anything," he said. "The deadlines have been so tight that I haven't had a lot of time to think through this stuff a great deal. It's just going from one thing to the next. And I've been relying on [DC Associate Editor] *Adam [Schlagman]* or [***Green Lantern Corps*** artist and art studio partner] Pat [Gleason] to help me out with references. Pat really helps me keep track of everything. Pat's been drawing ***Green Lantern Corps*** for years now, so he knows all of this stuff...

Part of the challenge for Mahnke is the size of the cast with which he has to work. "I don't know if there's any other book like this in the DCU where there are so many characters involved. I don't even know how the writers keep them straight. But Pat knows!"

Having the illustrator of the *other* monthly ***Green Lantern*** title, ***Green Lantern Corps***, working in the same studio certainly has its benefits. "Every once in awhile, if we come across a mental road block, we'll help each other out by just asking, 'how would you handle this?' I look at him as being my wise younger brother where ***Green Lantern*** is concerned. With Sinestro vs. Mongul, for instance, I just sat down and said, 'Now, here's how I envision their size, but what do you think?' I mean, Mongul's just *huge*. So Pat helped me work out the ratio of Sinestro to Mongul, regarding their size. So he's just been invaluable.

"And the way he draws the female Green Lanterns is just *beautiful*. So I'm not afraid to ask him for advice on some of them. It's nice to have someone here that you can just talk with and get a new perspective."

Unlike some artists, Mahnke doesn't make deadlines by compromising the quality of his work. "Even if it's a deadline-conscious book, I'd rather cleave the hours out of my day and literally out of my life to get it done well than to cut corners on the art. It's not as bad yet as finishing up ***Final Crisis***. That, I went seemingly *weeks* without sleep. But I can't let this one rest very long if I'm going to keep up the kind of quality I want on ***Green Lantern***. My window for sleeping is extremely small. To put it into the book is where it's at. I'll rest when the whole series is done.

"I try to put as much as I can into the page. With the details that are put into the script, there's stuff that you just can't miss. There's no way to avoid drawing stuff. Sure, you could take classic shortcuts in the storytelling by using silhouettes, but I try to not do too much of that. I don't want things looking sparse either. This is supposed to be an epic tale with a bunch of stuff happening, so I want to make it look that way and look as good as I can make it."

Mahnke credits his inker, *Christian Alamy*, for his contributions to the overall look of ***Green Lantern***. "Christian is a very meticulous inker... he doesn't miss anything, so his finishes. I hate calling it *finishes* because he's not a tracer. Christian absolutely is an *embellisher*. He picks up on things in a very subtle way that I don't even expect. Even though we've been working together for quite awhile, it's a real pleasure to see what he's done with some of these pivotal moments...

"Unfortunately, since Christian puts so much work into every page and we're so far off schedule, he doesn't get to finish issues. I'm disappointed when I have to ink some of it myself. I'm trying to ink close enough so that at least it's not a jarring difference. And then my old buddy *Tom Nguyen* picks up some of the pages as well. So at least it's fairly consistent through the issue. I look forward to when we can get a little breather and we can get Christian inking all of the book."

Is there any particular aspect of his ***Green Lantern*** run of which Mahnke is particularly proud? "Well, with#45, I was getting a kick out of reading comments online about Larfleeze. People seem to really like him. It was surprising that so many people enjoy him so much. When Geoff had described Larfleeze to me, he seemed like a goofy character, because he's just so obsessed with greed. I tried to get across that kind of loony body language across. So there's this two-page spread where he's sitting there, grasping his Orange Lantern, surrounded by these resurrected bodies of the constructs he'd been using. I had his toes curled under and had him looking very vulnerable at that moment. And people really liked that. So I'm looking forward to more Larfleeze. I didn't expect that reaction, but I like drawing characters like him. I assume I'll get a chance to draw more of him.

"And I like the start of the series with Issue #43. There was so much macabre stuff in there. I think I was firing on all cylinders and made some memorably grotesque images. You know, like with Black Hand lying in the grave, coddling dead bodies. I don't normally think of that kind of stuff. It's not in my day-to-day. I'm not a horror fan, really. But when I sit down to draw it, I really enjoyed it and I think it turned out really well. And the response of people seeing that, they have a visceral reaction to seeing something that grotesque."

Are there other characters that Mahnke finds particularly enjoyable to illustrate? "Drawing Sinestro, this evil icon in Green Lantern, was fun, trying to put the power and the magnificence and the nobility of him all at the same time. I've watched *Pat Gleason* draw Mongul and all this stuff that I've seen through the ***Green Lantern*** books over the years. And I get to bring those two together in Issue #46. That's been a lot of fun.

"I feel like I got to steal what should have been a *Pat Gleason* moment, because Mongul spent so much time in the ***Corps*** books. But I get to draw the resolution between Sinestro and Mongul as they battle it out. That's been one of my favorite things I've drawn. It's just such an important, pivotal moment. The Corps is Sinestro's, and Mongul has taken over. The two of them taking it to the mat is a pretty big deal. I can't tell you who wins, but there's no doubt that there's a battle that's been coming for a long time.

"But the way it's set up, let's just say Sinestro is not expecting it at that time. He was taken to the battle, and I think he rises to the occasion. And even though you get this resolution to their fight, the issue ends with a wicked surprise that you just don't expect. At least I didn't!

"That's the great thing about this series: Geoff sets up one thing here and then it all pays off later. And when you have the dead running around, all kinds of crazy things can happen. s this monstrous, evil character. There's something bigger and beyond that."

Has *Geoff Johns* told Mahnke how it's all going to end? "Wouldn't it be cool to know the end?" Mahnke said. "But you know, I haven't even asked. I mean, I guess he would tell me. Then again, maybe they can't trust me because my forty-something-year-old brain would mess up and forget I'm not supposed to tell anyone. But I honestly haven't asked. At this point, I'm just having so much fun reading the scripts as they come in. It's kind of nice not to know."

While Mahnke came on board just in time for ***Blackest Night***, he doesn't plan to leave once it's over. "I'm planning to stay on ***Green Lantern*** and so is Geoff, I think. I don't see any reason to leave. It would be a pleasure to keep working with him—it's been great so far!"

by Vaneta Rogers
(with Cliff Biggers)

Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

COMIC SHOP NEWSARAMA

Produced by *Comic Shop News* in cooperation with *newsarama.com*

Levitz Steps Down as DC President & Publisher

Paul Levitz, one of comics' most respected talents and a man who is equally at home in the business and the creative sides of the field, is no longer president and publisher of DC Comics. Instead, Levitz will segue into a role Current DC Comics President and Publisher Paul Levitz will segue into a role as writer, contributing editor and overall consultant to the newly-formed DC Entertainment, which is helmed by its president *Diane Nelson*, formerly with WArner Premiere. Nelson will report directly to *Jeff Robinov*, president of Warner Bros. Pictures Group.

According to Warner, DC Entertainment has been created to "maximize the potential of the DC brand," with Warner obviously hoping to achieve the same level of multi-platform marketing with DC's characters as it did with its Harry Potter franchise (a property also overseen by Nelson).

"The founding of DC Entertainment fully recognizes our desire to provide both the DC properties and fans the type of content that is only possible through a concerted cross-company, multi-platform effort," Nelson said. "DC Entertainment will help us to formally take the great working relationships between DC Comics and various Warner Bros. businesses to the next level in order to maximize every opportunity to bring DC's unrivaled collection of titles and characters to life."

"Based on the great success we've had working with DC Comics to create some of the most popular and successful super hero films of all time, I've long believed that there was much more we could do across all of Warner Bros.' businesses with this great body of characters and stories," said Robinov. "The prioritization of DC and the creation of DC Entertainment is a great opportunity that reaches far beyond the film group. There are endless creative possibilities to build upon the many significant successes already achieved by my colleagues *Kevin Tsujihara* and the Home Entertainment Group in the videogame, home video and direct-to-platform arenas and *Bruce Rosenblum* and the Television Group in live-action, animated and digital series. Collectively, we have the ability to grow a body of properties highlighting the iconic characters and the diversity of the creative output of DC Comics."

Many in the industry see the creation of DC Entertainment as a direct response to the late August announcement that Disney was acquiring Marvel Entertainment (which includes Marvel Comics).

Look for more news on this change at in upcoming issues of *Comic Shop News*.

CSNsider

•Don't spend too much time looking for that ***X-Men Forever #9 Zombie Variant*** that Marvel had announced; the variant has been cancelled. Instead, ***X-Men Forever #10*** will have a zombie variant cover.

•*Cary Nord* is out as penciller of ***Dark Avengers: Area #1***, replaced by *Manuel Garcia*.

•Apparently the Punisher's faceoff against Spidey isn't taking as long as Marvel thought: ***Punisher Annual #1*** has been cut from 48 pages to 40 pages.

•Bluewater Productions continues its new line of literary biography comics with the December release of ***Female Force: JK Rowling***, a rags-to-riches story of the career of Harry Potter's creator. "She is a remarkable and multidimensional woman,'" writer *Adam Gragg* said. "Learning about who she is and how she struggled to become a success was a truly enlightening experience."

•None other than former US President *Bill Clinton* will join the cast of *Marc Guggenheim's* ***Resurrection*** beginning with the fourth issue. In this series, Clinton was the last US President to serve before aliens ravaged the Earth and then departed, leaving behind a shattered and leaderless society.

Back to Press

•***28 Days Later #1 2nd Printing*** (JUL098219), a "blood red" variant of Sean Phillips' wraparound cover, in stores 10/7.

•***Philip K. Dick's Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep #2 2nd Printing*** (JUL098193), in stores 9/30.

•***Green Lantern #43 2nd Printing*** (JUL098230), featuring a recolored version of the original cover by *Doug Mahnke & Christian Alamy*, in stores 9/30.

•***Flash: Rebirth #2 2nd Printing*** (JUL098228), featuring a recolored version of the original cover by *Ethan VAn Sciver*, in stores 9/30.

•***Blackest Night #2 2nd Printing*** (JUL098232), featuring a recolored version of the original cover by *Ivan Reis & Oclair Albert*, in stores 9/30.

•***Deadpool #14 2nd Printing Crystal Variant*** (JUL098239), in stores 10/7.

•***Daredevil #500 2nd Printing Zircher Variant*** (JUL098240), in stores 10/7.

•***Hulk #14 2nd Printing Churchill Variant*** (JUL098238), in stores 10/7.

•***Marvel Zombies Return #1 2nd Printing Suydam Variant*** (JUL098224), in stores 10/7.

•***Strange Tales #1 2nd Printing Pope Variant*** (UL098291), in stores 10/7.

•***Irredeemable #6 2nd Printing*** (JUL098277), in stores 10/7.

It's Only Rock 'n' Roll, But They Like It

Bluewater Productions, well known for its line of biographies of political figures and authors (see this issue's CSNsider for more info on the latter), will expand in a new direction later this year with a series of trade paperback compilations of Revolutionary Comics' 1990s ***Rock 'N' Roll Comics***. More than seventy biographical comics unseen since Revolutionary ceased operation more than a decade ago will return to print.

"Great ideas, like the marriage of rock 'n' roll and comics, have the half-life of uranium and will always be popular," *Jay Allen Sanford* of Revolutionary Comics. "The folks at Bluewater clearly have their fingers on the same pop culture pulse that enabled the original Rock 'N' Roll Comics to become one of the top-selling indie comics of the '90s. Truth is often stranger than fiction...and certainly much more interesting!"

Rather than republish the biographies as individual comics, Bluewater will package them thematically, adding new covers and other bonus material. "In some cases we will add an epilogue for groups that experienced notable milestones after the issues original publishing," Bluewater president *Darren Davis* said. "Like Pink Floyd's reunion concert at Live8, or the passing of the Who's *John Entwistle*, or even the release of the long delayed Guns N' Roses album ***Chinese Democracy***."

The line kicks off in December with the release of the first volume, ***Hard Rock Heroes***, featuring biographies of Guns 'N'

SPIDER-MAN BY STAN LEE & LARRY LIEBER

YOU'RE UNDER ARREST, SANDMAN!
ONE FALSE MOVE AND I SHOOT!
GO AHEAD! TRY MY SHOULDER!
IT--WENT--RIGHT THROUGH YA!
YEAH. AIN'T THAT A KICK?
KRAKKK
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 9-17
©2009 Marvel Characters, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Distributed by King Features Syndicate.

COMIC SHOP NEWS
Published weekly since 1987 by Comic Shop News, Inc.
©2009 Comic Shop News, Inc. All Rights Reserved

EDITORS Cliff Biggers, Ward Batty

Editorial Office
2770 Carillon Crossing
Marietta, GA 30066
cliffbig@comicshopnews.com

Business Office
3577-A Chamblee-Tucker Rd. #215
Atlanta, GA 30341
(770) 939-1364
wbatty@csnsider.com

www.csnsider.com
twitter.com/csnsider

Roses, Metallica, AC/DC, Black Sabbath & Ozzy Osbourne, Motley Crue, Poison, Van Halen, Black Crowes, Motorhead, Pantera, Megadeath, Sammy Hagar, Anthrax, Joan Jett & Lita Ford, and Skid Row (whose biography is seeing print for the first time in this volume).

Other books in the works include:

- ***Volume 2: The Beatles,*** reprinting the eight-issue series.
- ***Volume 3: The Spirit of the 60s,*** spotlighting the Doors, the Grateful Dead, Bob Dylan, Jimi Hendrix, Janis Joplin, and looks at the San Francisco scene and the British Invasion.
- ***Volume 4: Led Zeppelin Experience,*** collecting the five-part miniseries.
- ***Volume 5: A Rock Pantheon,*** chronicling the careers of Eric Clapton, the Rolling Stones, Elton John, Bruce Springsteen, Aerosmith, Alice Cooper, ZZ Top, the Jackson 5, Rod Stewart, and Def Leppard.
- ***Volume 6: Pink Floyd Experience,*** collecting the five-issue limited series.
- ***Volume 7: The Art of Rock,*** focusing on The Who, Queen, Rush, Genesis, David Bowie, Kate Bush, ELO, and the Cure.
- ***Volume 8: The King—Elvis Presley,*** collecting the seven-issue limited series.
- ***Volume 9: Smash— Punk/Alternative Retrospective,*** featuring the Sex Pistols, REM, Jane's Addiction, Nirvana, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Soundgarden, Alice in Chains, Pearl Jam, Dead Kennedys, Ramones, The Runaways, Iggy Pop/ Stooges; MC5, New York Dolls, and U2.
- ***Volume 10: Hip-Hop and Funk Heroes,*** spotlighting Public Enemy, 2 Live Crew, NWA, Ice Cube, Ice-T, George Clinton & Parliament Funkadelic, MC Hammer, and Janet Jackson.

During its five years of biographical publishing, Revolutionary found amazing success with their ***Rock 'N' Roll Comics*** line, routinely selling 50,000 copies—a number that would often put those books in the Top 25 on today's charts. The company ceased operation in 1994, two years after the murder of its publisher, *Todd Loren.*

Filmmakers Expand Into Comic Arrrr-t

Eduardo Sanchez & Gregg Hale are best known for their work on the hit horror film ***The Blair Witch Project***—but they're following a pirate map in their next quest for creative success!

The writer and producer of the low-budget indy film that turned into an international hit are joining with writers *Robert Place Napton & Jamie Nash* and artist *Mario Guevara* to explore the brutal career of the most infamous pirate of them all in ***Blackbeard: The Legend of the Pyrate King.***

"What was exciting in our first meeting with Ed, Gregg, Jamie and Robert was the research and passion that they brought to the project," Dynamite publisher *Nick Barrucci* said. "This was their baby, and they asked us to help them bring their baby to comics. It was extremely flattering of them. They worked on the first ***Blair Witch*** movie, and Gregg does marketing and PR as well; I felt that they wouldn't have gotten involved if they weren't excited about the project. Having Mario on the interiors and *John Cassaday* on the covers is the cherry on top!"

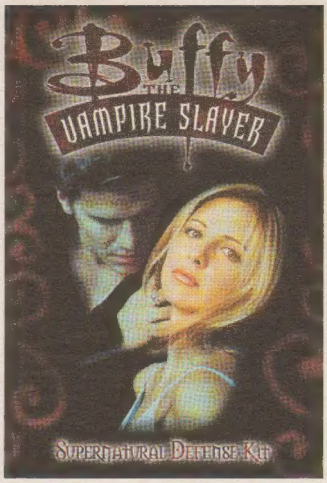
Sanchez is confident that Blackbeard's story will make for great comics drama. "Branded as the cruelest and most-feared pirate on the high seas, Edward Teach, AKA Blackbeard, was an amazingly complex and tragically flawed anti-hero that surprisingly belied his public persona in many ways. While delivering plenty of the kind of action you'd expect from a pirate story, this new comic will also be packed with surprises as we reveal a side of ***Blackbeard*** that you'll never expect."

"Blackbeard is one of world's most infamous characters and yet no one really knows who he was," Hale added. "This comic is going to give people a completely new take on who and what Blackbeard might have been. "History is written by the winners", they say; Edward Teach ended up with his head on a pike so we're trying to give an alternative take on his story."

"What's interesting about our story is it will dispel a lot of the pre-conceived notions people might have about Edward Teach the man called 'Blackbeard," Napton said.

"The amazing thing is that the true story has all the suspense, swashbuckling, and excitement of fantasy pirate tales, while also laying out an epic-journey of a criminal genius who may not have been as 'villainous' as we think," Nash explained. "He had fourteen wives, he was shot and stabbed more than twenty-five times and kept fighting before finally being decapitated, his pirate career was filled with sea chases, cannon-battles, and machete-on-machete combat --this is a story that demands to be big, bold, and blood-drenched. It *needs* to be a comic."

Blackbeard: Legend of the Pyrate King #1 is slated for October release.



Coming Comics—Dark Horse in December

The long-unavailable ***Buffy the Vampire Slayer Supernatural Defense Kit*** returns to comic shops in early 2010. This slipcased package includes a hardcover offering an expansion of "The Final Cut" from ***Buffy #8,*** along with Buffy's gold-colored cross, the traditional "Claddagh" ring, and a glass vial of holy water with silver flakes suspended in the fluid.

Dark Horse's ***One Shot Wonders*** continues in December with the release of ***Buffy the Vampire Slayer: Willow,*** by *Joss Whedon, Karl Moline, & Andy Owens.* The story reveals just what happened during Willow's walkabout following the demise of Sunnydale after she met a very sultry, extremely powerful serpent lady who seemed to be the key to unraveling the mysteries of Willow.

Conan the Cimmerian: The Weight of the Crown, another ***One Shot Wonders*** offering, presents *Darick Robertson's* take on *Robert E. Howard's* legendary barbarian hero. In this "adult fable," Conan travels away from Cimmeria to search for a mercenary job that will bring him the fierce joy of battle and the spoils of war. Intrigued by a leader known as the "Mad King of Gaul," Conan joins a band of brutes who are defending the Aquilonian border from incursions and who enjoy living in a lush valley that the Mad King claims for his own. These warriors soon believe that Conan may be a more fitting successor to their leader than the supposed king's own son—setting Conan on a potentially disastrous course!

Until now published only in original trade graphic novel format, *Adam Warren's* ***Empowered*** makes its periodical debut with the release of the ***Empowered One Shot Wonder.*** Costumed crimefighter Empowered fights a desperate battle against a functionally invulnerable, grave-robbing supervillain inside a secret underground mausoleum for fallen superheroes; meanwhile, back at Emp's apartment, the alien demonlord imprisoned upon her coffee table spins a tempestuous tell-all tale of the often-struggling heroine's deepest secrets . . .

Dark Horse expands its line of comics-related accessories with a heaping helping of ***Gelaskins***—protective skins for 13" laptops, 15" laptops, and iPhones—with decorative skins featuring images from Hellboy, Buffy the Vampire Slayer, the Goon, the Umbrella Academy, and more.

Mike Mignola & Richard Corben team up for ***Hellboy: The Bride of Hell,*** a ***One Shot Wonder*** offering that begins when a nineteen-year-old girl is kidnapped. Hellboy

©2009 Marvel Characters, Inc.
All Rights Reserved. Distributed by King Features Syndicate

tracks her down to a remote clearing in France where she's about to be given to Asmodeus, in a strange tale of ghosts, demonic revenge, lost love, and King Solomon.

Martin Powell & Mike Manley bring *Fredric Brown's* most famous novel to comics with the debut of the six-issue ***Martians Go Home!*** limited series. It begins when, without warning, one billion Little Green Men are everywhere. The Martians are on your street and in your house, all of them knowing your deepest and darkest secrets. Only Luke Devereaux, a burnt-out science-fiction writer, knows how to defeat the Martians . . . but he has already lost his mind!

Dark Horse collected volumes include:

•***Boris Karloff Tales of Mystery Archives Volume 2 HC,*** collecting ***Boris Karloff #s 5-10,*** featuring work by *Alex Toth, Mike Sekowsky,* and others.

•***Creepy Archives Volume 6 HC,*** reprinting ***Creepy #s 26-30*** featuring work by *Archie Goodwin, Harlan Ellison, Neal Adams, Frank Frazetta, Angelo Torres, Vaughn Bode,* and others.

•***Jet Scott Volume 1 HC,*** a compilation of the rarely seen science fiction strip by *Sheldon Stark & Jerry Robinson.* The strip, published in the ***New York Herald Tribune,*** stars Jet Scott of the Office of Scientifact! Whether it was tracking down deadly Banthrax germs, uncovering the source of strange ocean creatures, or discovering the cause of spontaneously combusting pipelines in Saudi Arabia, Jet Scott was the adventurer who could get to the truth! This compilation includes strips rarely seen since they originally appeared in 1953-1955.

•***Little Lulu: The Big Dipper Club & Other Stories TP,*** a full-color compilation featuring 200 full-color pages of all-ages fun by *John Stanley & Irving Tripp.*

•***Red Mundi Book 6: Gate of Gods TP,*** collecting the finale of *Arvid Nelson's* alternate-history drama.

Jeremy Barlow and *Matt & Shawn Fillbach* follow Jedi Master Mace Windu as he leads a battle against Separatist forces for control of the planet Simocadia in ***Star Wars: The Clone Wars–The Colossus of Destiny,*** an original digest-sized graphic novel.

•***Star Wars: Knight of the Old Republic Volume 8: Destroyer TP,*** collecting an untold chapter in the lives of Malak & Revan, stars of the ***Knights of the Old Republic*** videogame.

Multiple Choice? Or All of the Above!

Which would be the toughest of all personalities for an assassin to invoke? A cowboy? A ninja? A Viking?

Howsabout all of the above?

That's exactly what writer *AJ Lieberman* and artist *Riley Rossmo* deliver in ***Cowboy Ninja Viking,*** a tale of a schizophrenic killer just crazy enough to take down some of the deadliest counter-intelligence agents alive.

"***Cowboy Ninja Viking*** is everything I look for in a series to bring to Image," Image Vice-President *Jim Valentino* said. "There is absolutely nothing else on the stands that looks or reads remotely like ***Cowboy Ninja Viking,*** especially given its Golden Age dimensions and format. I certainly can't think of any other titles featuring schizophrenic heroes combating evil with no less than three personalities!"

The star of the series is the birth child of psychotherapist Sebastian Ghislain, who uses his position to recruit multiple personality disorder patients, transforming them into a unit of counter-intelligence agents called the Triplets. But when those guys go off-mission and begin killing with reckless abandon, it's up to Cowboy Ninja Viking to take down his own 'brothers.'

Cowboy Ninja Viking #1 is slated for early October release.

BLACKEST NIGHT #4 (OF 8)
Geoff Johns (W); Ivan Reis & Oclair Albert (A)
(DC AUG090086 $3.99)

BLACKEST NIGHT: BATMAN #3 (OF 3)
Peter Tomasi (W); Ardian Syaf & John Dell (A)
(DC AUG090091 $2.99)

BLACKEST NIGHT: SUPERMAN #3 (OF 3)
James Robinson (W); Eddy Barrows & Ruy Jose (A)
(DC AUG090089 $2.99)

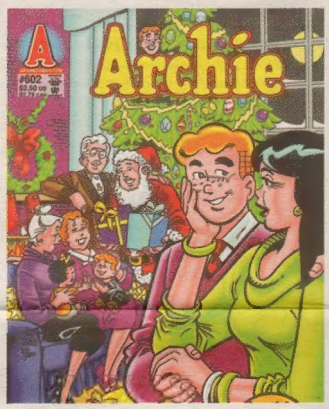
BLACKEST NIGHT: TITANS #3 (OF 3)
JT Krul (W) Ed Benes & Rob Hunter (A)
(DC AUG090093 $2.99)

GREEN LANTERN #47 (BLACKEST NIGHT)
Geoff Johns (W); Doug Mahnke (A)
(DC AUG090095 $2.99)

GREEN LANTERN CORPS #41 (BLACKEST NIGHT)
Peter Tomasi (W); Patrick Gleason & Rebecca Buchman (A)
(DC AUG090097 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?
The DC Universe confronts its most nightmarish menace to date as the assault of the dead continues. Hal Jordan embarks on a journey to learn the truth about the Black Lanterns. Batman, Robin, & Deadman try to defend Gotham against their onslaught. Black Lantern Psycho-Pirate terrorizes SMallville. The Titans face their Black Lantern former teammates. The Blue Lanterns and Agent Orange take their war to the next level. And the Green Lantern Corps makes a desperate attempt to protect Oa from a Black Lantern attack... but things don't work out as planned!

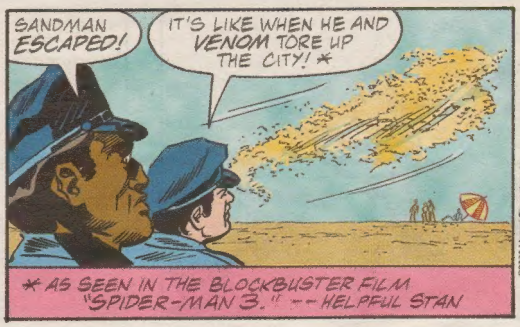
Why Should You Care?
Think zombies are frightening? They don't hold a funereal candle to the terror of the back-from-the-dead Black Lanterns. But these dead menaces have brought more life than ever to the entire Green Lantern franchise—and the ramifications of this horrifying comics-Cujo-esque saga are shaking the entire DCU! It's not too late to out why this saga is the biggest event of 2009!



ARCHIE #602
Michael Uslan (W); Stan Goldberg (A)
(Archie AUG090642 $2.50)

What's the Scoop?
First Archie proposed to Veronica. Then they got married. And now they're expecting a new addition to the family... or more accurately, *two* new additions, since Veronica is expecting twins!

Why Should You Care?
Michael Uslan continues his fascinating look at what the future may hold for the Riverdale gang. And if you think you know where the story is going, you really need to keep reading this six-parter—Uslan has some surprises in store!



MEANWHILE...
MAYBE I'LL GET SOME GOOD PIX TODAY.
I HAVE A FEELING YOU WILL, PETER!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 9-19
©2009 Marvel Characters, Inc. All Rights Reserved Distributed by King Features Syndicate

OP COMICS: OCTOBER

ARKHAM REBORN #1 (OF 3)

David Hine (W); Jeremy Haun (A)

(DC AUG090112 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Following the destruction of Arkham in *Battle for the Cowl*, Dr. Jeremiah Arkham rebuilds the institution, intending to establish it as a model for the enlightened treatment of the mentally ill. But the best-laid plans of mice and men aft gang a'gley...

Why Should You Care?

Arkham rises from the ashes in this three-part miniseries—and with a hit videogame stirring new interest in the infamous institution, you can expect that lots of new readers will be curious to see what the future holds!

CASPER & THE SPECTRALS #1

Todd Dezago (W); Pedro Delgado (A)

(Ardden AUG090656 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Located in the shadows of New York City, the unseen realm of Spooky Town is home to ghosts, goblins, demons, witches, and all those other supernatural beings who live beyond the edges of our world. But an ancient entity threatens both New York and Spooky Town, it's up to Casper, Wendy, and Hot Stuff to save both worlds!

Why Should You Care?

Few comics characters are more fondly remembered than Harvey Comics' loveable supernatural-themed trio. Readers have asked for their return for many years—and now, after far too long an absence, they're back, updated for a new century but still the same all-ages charmers.

CLIVE BARKER'S SEDUTH 3-D #1

Clive Barker & Christopher Monfette (W); Gabriel Rodriguez & Ray Zone (A)

(IDW AUG090924 $5.99)

What's the Scoop?

When an architect observes a tiny cloud of darkness in an otherwise flawless diamond, he has no idea that this cloud will soon spread to terrify his world with nightmarish horrors.

Why Should You Care?

After years away from comics, *Clive Barker* returns with an all-new story written expressly for IDW—a story brought into a new dimension of horror by 3D master *Ray Zone*, who adds a new dimension to *Gabriel Rodriguez's* art.

DARK REIGN: THE LIST—HULK

Greg Pak (W); Ben Oliver (A)

(Marvel AUG090452 $3.99)

DARK REIGN: THE LIST—PUNISHER

Rick Remender (W); John Romita Jr. (A)

(Marvel AUG090451 $3.99)

DARK REIGN: THE LIST—SECRET WARRIORS

Jonathan Hickman (W); Ed McGuinness (A)

(Marvel AUG090450 $3.99)

DARK REIGN: THE LIST—WOLVERINE

Jason Aaron (W); Esad Ribic (A)

(Marvel AUG090453 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Norman Osborn thought he was ready for the fury of the Hulk—but he hadn't planned for the double-team assault of Bruce Banner and Skaar, Son of Hulk! But he is ready to eliminate the threat of Frank Castle for once and for all... or so he thinks. Meanwhile Osborn needs the help of Nick Fury to uncover a breach in national security... but will Fury give aid to the enemy? And how will Osborn deal with Wolverine, who is determined to stop him from taking control of the Weapon X program. Sounds like it's not a good month to be Norman Osborn!...

Why Should You Care?

The dramatic finale of *Dark Reign* is rapidly approaching... and each of these books brings us a major step closer to that climax!

GI JOE MOVIE: SNAKE EYES #1

Ray Park & Kevin VanHook (W); Lee Ferguson (A)

(IDW AUG090916 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

The most popular Joe of all stars in his own miniseries that takes place just prior to the events of this summer's hit film.

Why Should You Care?

Not only does the series star Snake-Eyes, but it's also co-written by Snake-Eyes—or more specifically, by *Ray Park*, the actor who played Snake-Eyes in the film.

GROO: HOGS OF HORDER #1 (OF 4)

Mark Evanier (W); Sergio Aragones (A)

(Dark Horse AUG090030 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Think that there couldn't be anything more capable of wreaking destruction and chaos than Groo himself? Wait 'til you meet the Hogs of Horder...

Why Should You Care?

Funny books don't come any funnier than this! If you've never experienced the lunacy of *Groo*, here's your chance to find out what you're missing. And if you have, you already have this one on your must-read list.

HATTER M: THE LOOKING GLASS WARS HC & TP VOL 2—MAD WITH WONDER

(Frank Beddor & Liz Cavalier (W); Sami Makkonen (A)

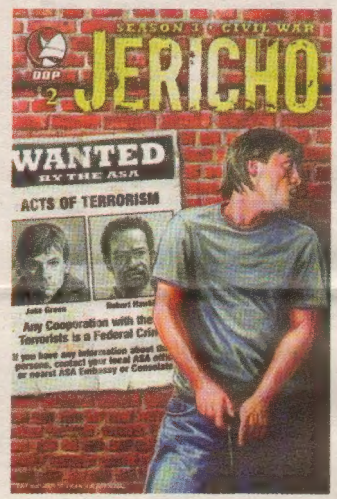
(Automatic AUG090667 $24.99 HC; AUG090666 $14.99 TP)

What's the Scoop?

Hatter Madigan's quest to rescue the lost princess takes him from the streets of London to the battlefields of America during the Civil War.

Why Should You Care?

Frank Beddor, author of the award-winning *Looking Glass Wars* novels, continues his reimagining of *Lewis Carroll's* classic in this original grpahic novel.



JERICHO SEASON 3 #1 (OF 6)

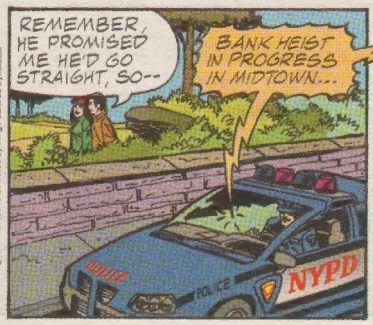
Don Shotz & Robert Levine (W); Alejandro F. Giralbo (A)

(Devil's Due AUG090767 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Jake Green and Robert Hawkins have taken the last remaining nuclear bomb to the safe haven of Texas... but why is John Smith, the mastermind behind the first strike, calling on them for help?

YOU REALLY WON'T GO CHASING AFTER SANDMAN?
NOT UNLESS HE TURNS TO CRIME AGAIN.
STAN LEE JERRY LIEBER 9-21
©2009 Marvel Characters, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Distributed by King Features Syndicate.



Why Should You Care?

The creators of the short-lived cult favorite CBS series continue their story in this original comic book series that reveals what they had planned for season three.

JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA #38

James Robinson (W); Mark Bagley & Rob Hunter (A)

(DC AUG090147 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

A one-time member of the JLA falls before he can warn the team of a looming peril, while what's left of the JLA journeys to the past to discover what the future holds for their team... if there's any future at all!

Why Should You Care?

James Robinson, writer of *JLA: Cry for Justice,* makes his debut as the new writer of DC's flagship title—and he's joined by superstar illustrator *Mark Bagley,* giving DC's premiere superteam the sort of premiere talent the series so rightly deserves.

PLANETARY #27

Warren Ellis (W); John Cassaday (A)

(Wildstorm/DC AUG090209 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

The enigmatic Elijah Snow has one final errand to run before his duties are fulfilled...

Why Should You Care?

For almost two years, readers have awaited Warren Ellis's final issue of *Planetary*—and now it's here at last, the wrap-up of the most remarkable series in Ellis's many-storied career.

STARGATE #0

Chuck Dixon, Brandon Jerwa, & Doug Murray (W); Nigel Raynor, Walter Geovani, & John Watson (A)

(Dynamite AUG090789 $1.00)

What's the Scoop?

New tales of *Stargate SG-1, Stargate: Atlantis,* and *Stargate Universe* highlight this special zero issue that paves the way for three upcoming series launches.

Why Should You Care?

The Stargate has found a new opening at the Dynamite Comics offices, and the result is this special bargain-priced issue featuring new tales of *Stargate* past, present, and future.

SUGARSHOCK

Joss Whedon (W); Fabio Moon (A)

(Dark Horse AUG090011 $3.50)

What's the Scoop?

Dandelion Naizen is the charismatic but crazy singer-songwriter who's the leader of a rock band that includes a robot bass player—and she may or may not also be on a mission for a secret government agency. But she is definitely smack-dab in the middle of an intergalactic battle of the bands...

Why Should You Care?

This is *Buffy*-meister *Joss Whedon* at his most outrageous, delivering one of his all-too-rare created-just-for-comics concepts.

TALISMAN: ROAD OF TRIALS #0

Stephen King, Peter Straub, & Robin Furth (W); Tony Shasteen (A)

(Del Rey AUG090827 $1.00)

What's the Scoop?

Jack Sawyer's father lives two separate lives—one in our world, the other in the mysterious realm called the Territories... a place where science is magic. And now Jack finds himself thrust into this realm o a quest for a prize so powerful that it threatens to destroy both worlds.

Why Should You Care?

Del Rey launches its adaptation of this acclaimed adaptation of the *Stephen King-Peter Straub* collaboration with this never-before-told prequel tale.

WORLDS FINEST #1 (OF 4)

Sterling Gates (W); Julian Lopez (A)

(DC AUG090127 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Red Robin joins forces with the new Kryptonian Nightwing to end a mysterious threat to Metropolis and rescue Flamebird. But is this all a red herring to distract Red Robin and Nightwing from an even bigger threat to Gotham City and New Krypton?

Why Should You Care?

Sterling Gates, the writer who made Supergirl a buzzworthy book once again, introduces a new World's Finest team in this clever addition to the current Batman and Superman family sagas.

Check 'Em Out:

Books You *Should* Be Reading

CARTOON HISTORY OF THE MODERN WORLD TP VOL 2: BASTILLE TO BAGHDAD 1

(Gonick JUL090985 $17.95)

Larry Gonick offers an irreverent and informative look at history from the Enlightenment to World Wars I and II and beyond. Think there's no way history can be fun? Then you haven't tried it Gonick style!

COMIC BOOK COMICS #4

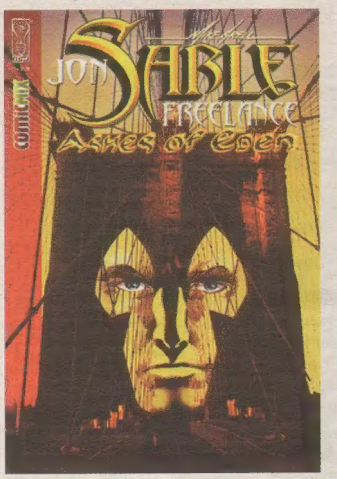
(Evil Twin AUG090880 $3.95)

And while we're talking about irreverent—there are few who can blend irreverence and information more effectively than *Fred Van Lente & Ryan Dunlavey,* who make comics history more fun than the comics themselves! This issue takes a look at the 1960s Marvel Comics careers of *Stan Lee* and *Steve Ditko,* leading up to the breakup of Spidey's creative parents.

FAR WEST: BADDER MOJO

(Antarctic AUG090628 $3.99)

Meg, the rough and ready bounty hunter, and her talking bear sidekick Phil are back in action on the weird frontier in this two-issue miniseries by *Far West* creator *Richard Moore.* This time they're up against Kodiki, a trickster spirit that can take any form.



JON SABLE FREELANCE: ASHES OF EDEN #1

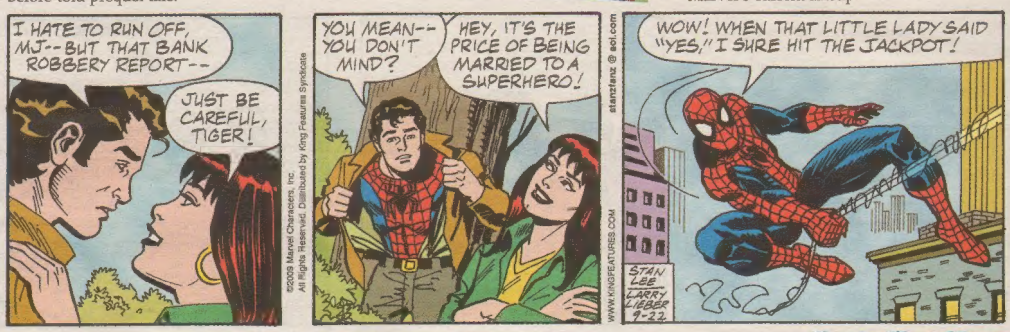
(IDW AUG090927 $3.99)

Mike Grell returns to one his most popular creations in this adventure that blends a lovely woman, a monstrously large diamond, and some menacing people who want to see both Sable and the mystery woman dead. The real appeal will be a chance to see Grell writing and drawing one of his best-known creations once again; add this to the two-part *Warlord* story that Grell is writing and drawing over at DC, and it's time for Grell fans to start celebrating!

X-MEN VS AGENTS OF ATLAS #1 (OF 2)

(Marvel AUG090454 $3.99)

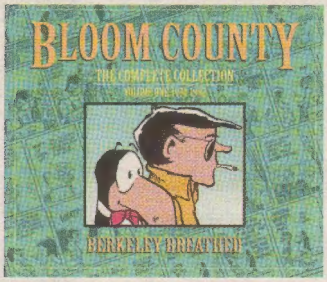
Jeff Parker brings his quirky Agents of Atlas toe-to-toe with the Uncanny X-Men in a tale that begins when Venus is kidnapped, and intel suggests that the one machine that can help find her is CEREBRA... but Marvel's mutants aren't too keen on the idea. This two-part miniseries should bring much-deserved attention to Parker's Agents of Atlas, one of the best team books in Marvel's current lineup.


I HATE TO RUN OFF, MJ--BUT THAT BANK ROBBERY REPORT--
JUST BE CAREFUL, TIGER!
©2009 Marvel Characters, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Distributed by King Features Syndicate
YOU MEAN--YOU DON'T MIND?
HEY, IT'S THE PRICE OF BEING MARRIED TO A SUPERHERO!
starstranz @ aol.com
WWW.KINGFEATURES.COM
WOW! WHEN THAT LITTLE LADY SAID "YES," I SURE HIT THE JACKPOT!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 9-22

Collected Cool:
October's Best Reprint Volumes

ABSOLUTE DEATH HC
(Vertigo/DC MAR090226 $99.99)

This oversized slipcased collection, designed to complement the already-released ***Absolute Sandman*** quartet, includes *Neil Gaiman's* two ***Death*** limited series along with oodles of bonuses.



BLOOM COUNTY: COMPLETE LIBRARY HC VOL 1
(IDW AUG090908 $39.99)

Launching a comprehensive collection of every daily and Sunday ***Bloom County*** strip by Pulitzer Prize winner *Berkeley Breathed*, this volume covers December 8, 1980, through September 26, 1982.

GAHAN WILSON: 50 YEARS OF PLAYBOY CARTOONS HC
(Fantagraphics AUG090882 $125.00)

More than 1000 cartoons by one of the field's most distinctive talents are presented in a three-volume slipcased set.

LIBERTY MEADOWS SUNDAY STRIPS HC VOL 2
(Image AUG090324 $29.99)

This volume collects the final two years of *Frank Cho's* syndicated Sunday strips, digitally recolored and totally uncensored.

MARVEL MASTER-WORKS: ATLAS ERA MENACE HC VOL 1
(Marvel MAY090566 $59.99)

Marvel continues to explore its almost-forgotten 1950s era with this collection of tales from the Atlas horror series, featuring work by *Stan Lee, Bill Everett, Russ Heath, Joe Maneely, Gene Colan John Romita, Joe Sinnott,* and others.

ROCKETEER COMPLETE COLLECTION HC VOL 1
(IDW AUG090961 $29.99)

ROCKETEER COMPLETE COLLECTION DELUXE EDITION HC VOL 1
(IDW AUG090962 $75.00)

Either edition of this book is a great addition to any collection, since they both features the *Laura-Martin*-recolored version of *Dave Stevens* ***Rocketeer***—but the deluxe edition is the best choice if your budget allows, since it offers the material in a larger size, along with more than 100 additional pages of sketches, preliminaries, layouts, and much, much more.

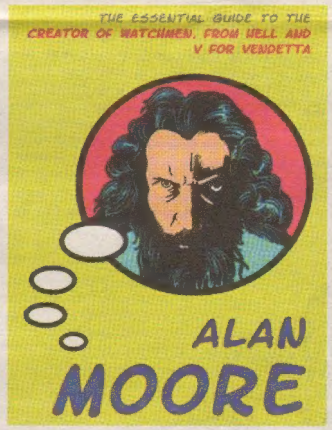
SPIDER-MAN HC NEWSPAPER STRIPS
(Marvel MAY090572 $39.99)

CSN brings you the current Spider-Man strips by *Stan Lee & Larry Leiber* every week, but this long-overdue hardcover collects the 1977-1980 strips by *Stan Lee* and Spidey uber-artist *John Romita*.

FYI: Must-Have Additions to Your Reference Library

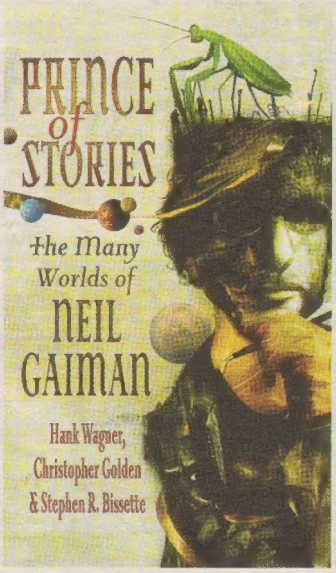
ALAN MOORE POCKET ESSENTIAL SERIES SC
(Trafalgar AUG091172 $12.95)

Lance Parkin presents an insightful study of *Alan Moore's* recurring themes and how his work has evolved over the years.



BATMAN VAULT MUSEUM IN A BOOK SPIRAL HC
(Running Press JUL091219 $49.95)

Robert Greenberger & Matthew K. Manning present a memorabilia and anecdote-packed collection of Batman memorabilia and history, including removable artifacts, never-before-seen sketches, notes, and more.



PRINCE OF STORIES: MANY WORLDS NEIL GAIMAN SC
(St. Martin's AUG091188 $17.99)

Complete with hours of exclusive interviews with Gaiman and conversations with his collaborators, ***Prince of Stories*** chronicles the history and impact of the Gaiman's work in film, fiction, and comics.

WIZARD SUPERSTAR SERIES VOL 1: 25 GREATEST WRITERS IN COMICS
(Wizard AUG090591 $17.99)

This collection spotlights the careers of some of the field's most influential talents, including *Geoff Johns, Stan Lee, Frank Miller, Neil Gaiman, Brian Bendis, Brad Meltzer,* and others.

Hot Commodities:
October's Hottest Merchandising & Collectibles

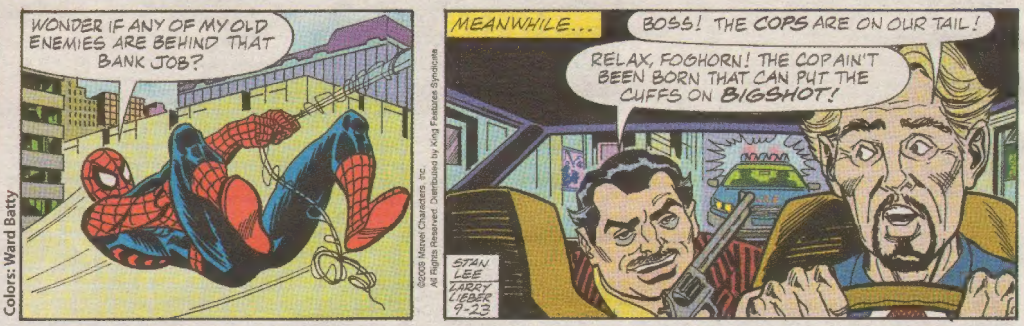
BATMAN FAMILY MULTI-PART STATUE PART 1
(DC Direct MAR090251 $150.00)

Andy Kubert designed this multi-part statue series that kicks off with a statue featuring Batwoman and Commissioner Gordon; each statue set will include a portion of a Batman figure that will complete the series.

JLA TROPHY ROOM: GREEN LANTERN RINGS PROP REPLICA
(DC Direct MAR090250 $250.00)

There are plastic rings on the way in November, but this will be *the* must-have collectible for the discerning ***Blackest Night*** fan: it features eight plated metal rings (each a different color, signifying the insignia of the various Corps) fit into a battery-operated, light-up resin display base. The rings are protected by a removable glass dome that sits atop the base.

twitter.com/csnsider


WONDER IF ANY OF MY OLD ENEMIES ARE BEHIND THAT BANK JOB?
MEANWHILE...
BOSS! THE COPS ARE ON OUR TAIL!
RELAX, FOGHORN! THE COP AIN'T BEEN BORN THAT CAN PUT THE CUFFS ON BIGSHOT!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 9-23
Colors: Ward Batty
©2009 Marvel Characters, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Distributed by King Features Syndicate.

Follow Spider-Man every week in Comic Shop News!